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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 03808 160908Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IGA-02
/084 W
----------161215Z 108345 /10
R 160705Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2981
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 3808

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, US, IV
SUBJECT: U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE

REF: (A) STATE 82515, (B) ABIDJAN 3756

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MFA ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS MAURICE OULA APRIL 14, EMBOFF DESCRIBED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE (REF A). OULA'S REACTION WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF CHIEF OF CABINET KACOU REPORTED (REF (B).

2. OULA SAID U.S. RESPONSE TO SITUATION APPEARED TIMID AND HESITANT. THE ZAIRE SITUATION RISKED BECOMING ANOTHER ANGOLA, HE SAID, WITH SOVIET-ARMED AND CUBAN-ASSISTED FORCES CARRYING THE DAY AGAINST MOBUTU WHO IS KNOWN TO BE A CLOSE ALLY OF THE U.S. THE RESULT WOULD BE A FURTHER ADVANCE OF THE SOVIET-CUBAN PENETRATION IN AFRICA WHICH WORRIED MODERATE AFRICAN
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LEADERS. OULA SAID IVORY COAST GREATLY APPRECIATED THE FORTHRIGHT ACTION OF FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND CALLED UPON THE U.S. TO TAKE A SIMILAR DIRECT AND ACTIVE ROLE IN AIDING ITS FRIENDS.

3. OULA ALSO SAID THAT WHILE HE AGREED WITH THE COMMENT OF THOSE WHO SAY COMMUNISM IS ALIEN TO THE

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AFRICAN MENTALITY AND LEFT TO THEMSELVES MOST AFRICAN STATES WOULD DEVELOP A FORM OF NATIONALISM NON-ALIGNED TO EITHER BLOC, THE POLITICAL REALITY AS WITNESSED IN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND ELSEWHERE IS THAT THE COMMUNISTS PREFER INSTABILITY AS BEING MOST CONDUCIVE TO THEIR PURPOSES. FOR THIS REASON HE BELIEVED THE SOVIETS DID NOT REALLY WANT TO SEE A QUICK SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THEIR INTERVENTION IS MORE LIKELY TO PROVOKE AND PROLONG CONFLICTS THAN TO SETTLE THEM. THAT IS WHY PEACEFUL, STABLE AND RAPIDLY-DEVELOPING STATES LIKE IVORY COAST ARE SO WORRIED SINCE THEY HAVE THE MOST TO LOSE. STEARNS

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